



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/764,103

01/19/2001

Kenichi Kurata

Q62224

4519

23373 7590 01/10/2008
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

LASTRA, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/764,103

Applicant(s)

KURATA ET AL.

Examiner

DANIEL LASTRA

Art Unit

3622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/19/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 71-74,76 and 78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 71-74,76 and 78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 71-74, 76 and 78 have been examined. Application 09/764,103 (Image-forming system employing a cartridge and providing a benefit to a user) has a filing date 01/19/2001 and claims foreign priority# 2000-014050 (01/19/2000).

Response to Amendment

2. In response Requirement for Restriction/Election filed 07/19/2007, the Applicant filed a Response to Election / Restriction on 10/19/2007, which elected claims 71-74, 76 and 78 for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 71-74, 76 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima (US 2002/0004802) in view of Walker (US 6,494,562).

As per claims 71, 76 and 78, Shima teaches:

a web page containing a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to a plurality of sample printing data (see Shima paragraph 168);

reading printing environment information from a storage of the image-forming apparatus at the client (see Shima paragraph 168);

transmitting *the read printing information from the client* to the information-providing server (see Shima paragraphs 168-170);

displaying the transmitted web page at the client (see Shima figure 12);

inputting into the client a user's selection of one the thumbnail images displayed on the web page (See Shima paragraph 170);

displaying a set of printer properties and printing medium appropriate on the basis of the transmitted printing environment information and the selected thumbnail image of the client (See Shima paragraphs 168-170);

selecting a printing mode and a printing medium desired by a user based on the displayed set of printer properties and the displayed printing medium at the client (See Shima paragraphs 168-170);

creating printing data on the basis of the selected printing mode and the selected printing medium at the server (See Shima paragraphs 168-170);

transmitting the printing data, which is to be supplied to the image-forming apparatus from the server to the client (see Shima paragraph 173)

supplying the printing data received from the information-providing server to the image-forming apparatus *from the client* and processing the printing data received from the information-providing server via the client to perform printing (See Shima paragraphs 168-170).

Walker teaches:

reading the cartridge ID and the URL from the memory element of the cartridge at the client (See Walker col 9, lines 40-60);

accessing the read cartridge ID from the client to the information-providing server
(see Walker col 9, lines 40-60);

transmitting a web page according to the transmitted cartridge ID, from the server to the client (see Walker col 9, lines 40-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that Shima would use the URL address stored in the memory of a printer cartridge, as taught by Walker in order to provide a printing system that eliminate the need for machine dependent driver software by using hypertext information retrieval environment (*i.e.* web server function).

As per claim 72, Walker teaches:

wherein the information-providing server has the web page corresponding to the cartridge ID, the method further comprising: automatically accessing the web page corresponding to the *cartridge* ID which is in the memory element of the cartridge and has been read by the image-forming apparatus (see Walker col 9, lines 10-60). In Walker, the "reseller identification information" functions as a user's password in order that a user is able to connect to a reseller (see Walker col 9, lines 35-40).

As per claim 73, Walker teaches:

wherein a password for permitting access to the information-providing server by the client are stored in the memory element, the method further comprising: reading the password from the memory element of the cartridge *at the client*, and transmitting the password inside the memory element of the cartridge, which has been read by the image-forming apparatus, to the server in response to an inquiry sent from the

information-providing server, thereby connecting to the server (see Walker col 9, lines 10-60). In Walker, the "reseller identification information" functions as a user's password in order that a user is able to connect to a reseller (see Walker col 9, lines 35-40).

As per claim 74, Shima and Walker fail to teach:

wherein a range of permitting the access in the information-providing server is set to a range, which is different depending on the password. However, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known in the computer art that different password allow different range of access to data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that Shima and Walker would different range of accessing a host server, as it is old and well known in the art to have different level of access to data.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 71-74, 76 and 78 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Haines (US 6,738,903) teaches a replaceable cartridge with password protected data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 571-272-6720 and fax 571-273-6720. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

Application/Control Number:
09/764,103
Art Unit: 3622

Page 6

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W. STAMBER can be reached on 571-272-6724. The official Fax number is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Lastra', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel Lastra
December 30, 2007